(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) how far this will help overcome shortage of power in the northern region especially the NCT of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) With the commissioning of Muzaffarpur-Gorakhpur 400kV D/C line under "Transmission System associated with Tala HEP, East-North Inter-connector and Northern Region Transmission System" in August, 2006, Northern Region has been synchronously inter-connected with Western, Eastern and North-Eastern Regions. This transmission line with series compensation has inter-regional power transmission capacity of 2000 MW between Eastern Region and Northern Region.

The inter-regional links help in transfer of surplus from one region to other regions. States of Northern Region, including National Capital Territory of Delhi are able to avail their share in the power stations located in Eastern Region as also surplus power from Eastern and Southern Regions through inter-regional links. Northern Region received 1798.2 MU of power from other regions during the period August-October, 2006 out of which NCT of Delhi received 172.6 MU.

Installing of electronic metres

†2040. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic metres are being installed at homes for billing of consumption of electricity;

(b) if so, whether the consumers are dissatisfied with the installation of electronic metres and demand for the change is being made by them;

(c) if so, the reasons for the dissatisfaction of the consumers; and

(d) the details of the action taken to redress their dissatisfaction?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, Central Electricity Authority has framed the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

meters) Regulation, 2006. These regulations among other things provide that all consumer meter shall be of static type. The meters not complying with these regulations shall be replaced by the licensee on his own or on request of the consumer. The meters may also be replaced as per the regulations or directions of the Appropriate Commission or pursuant to the reforms programme of the Appropriate Government. The Regulations also provide that every meter shall meet the requirement of accuracy class as specified in the standards given in the schedule. The Act requires licensee to comply with these regulations.

(b) and (c) As informed by various State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) and utilities, consumers are generally satisfied about the electronic meters. Initially, the complaints of the consumers in some places were mainly about increase in consumption recorded by electronic meters as compared to electro mechanical meters. The licensees have explained to the consumers about the accuracy of electronic meters as compared to electro mechanical meters and their ability to record stand by power consumption.

(d) Under the provisons of the Electricity Act, 2003, it is mandatory for the licensee to establish Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum in accordance with the Regulations framed by the SERCs. Appeals against the orders of this forum can be made to an authority known as Ombudsman who is appointed by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Power generation capacity of independent power producers

2041. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the plan and actual achievement of new power generation capacity by independent power producers since 1991; and

(b) the constraints in achievement of the plan and the remedial steps proposed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per information available, the targets and actual achievements of the Independent Power Producers in terms of capacity addition (MW) during 8th, 9th & 10th Five Year Plans are as follows: